OHH, I KNEW THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
Vol.3/Commonality

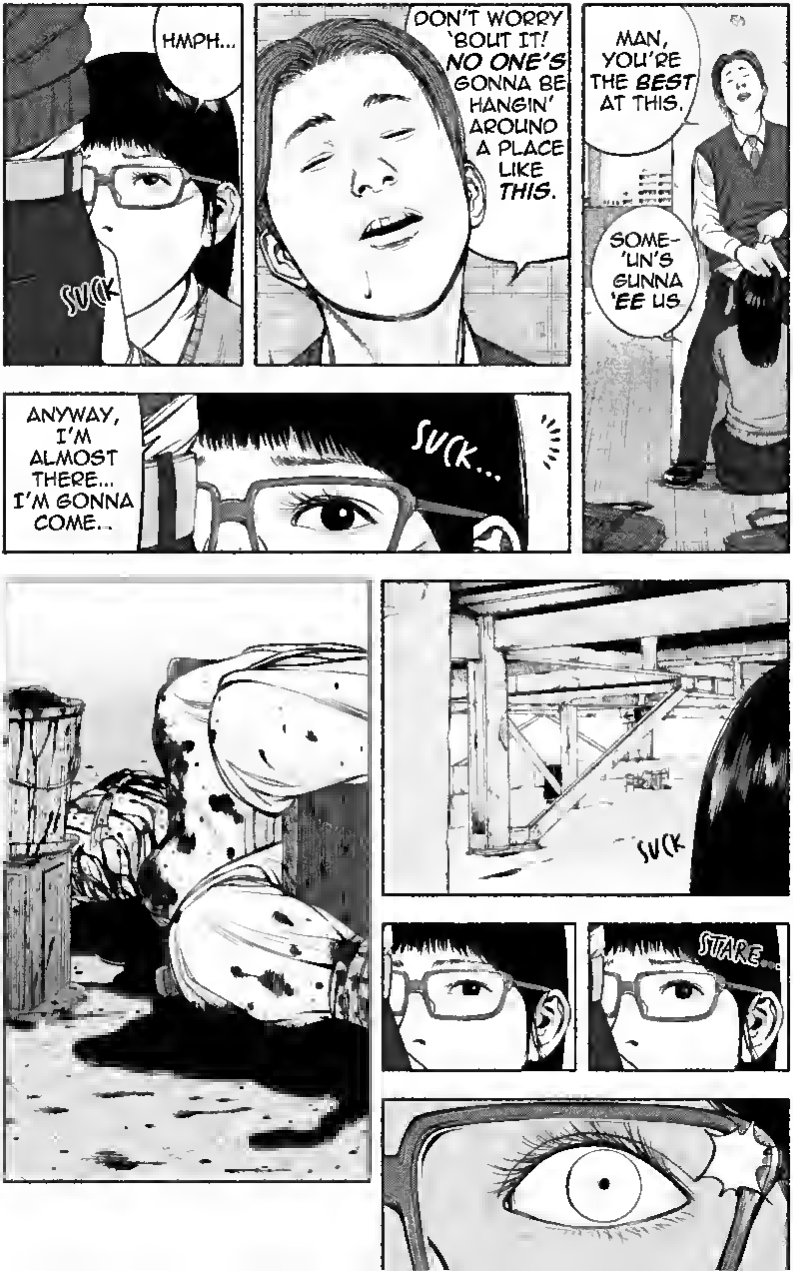
YOU STUPID? YOU THINK I HAVE THE MONEY FOR THAT?!

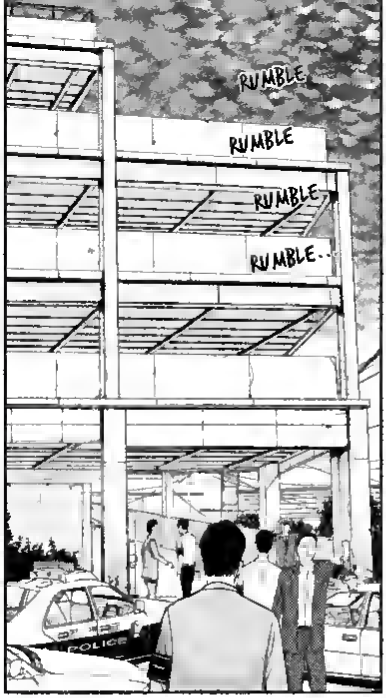
WHAT?!
THEN A HOTEL.

OH C'MON, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL BE THE END OF THE WORLD.
NO WAY! NOT IN THIS DUMP! LETS JUST GO TO YOUR PLACE.

C'MON, THIS IS FINE, RIGHT?
OOH-H-H, YOU JUST CALLED ME STUPI-I-D!
WHA-A-A-T?

WE CAN'T, MY MOM'S THERE TODAY.


HMPH...
SUCK
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT! NO ONE'S GONNA BE HANGIN' AROUND A PLACE LIKE THIS.
MAN, YOU'RE THE BEST AT THIS.
SOME-'UN'S GUNNA 'EE US
ANYWAY, I'M ALMOST THERE... I'M GONNA COME..
SUCK...
SUCK
STARE...

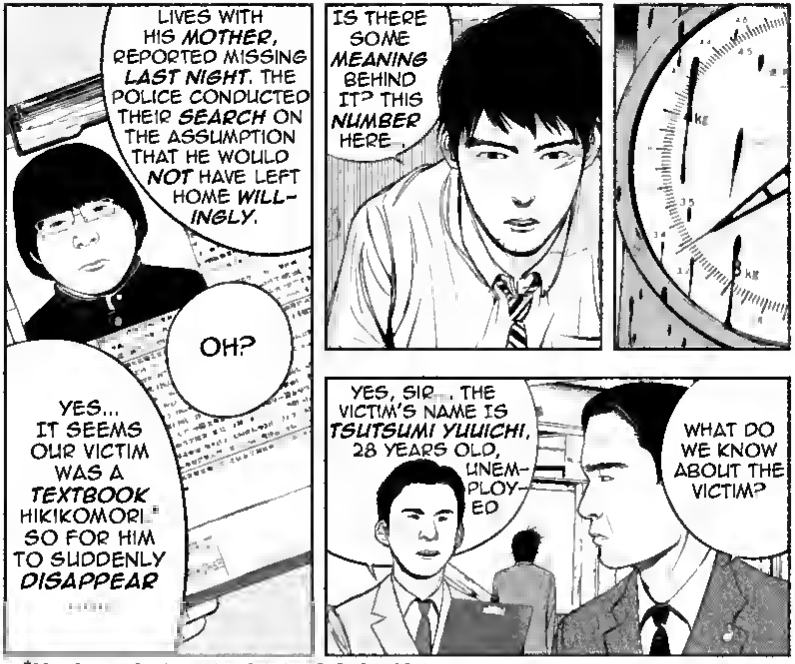

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE..
POLICE

EEEEK!!
I'M COM-ING!

E
B
A

G YOUR MOTHER'S PAI

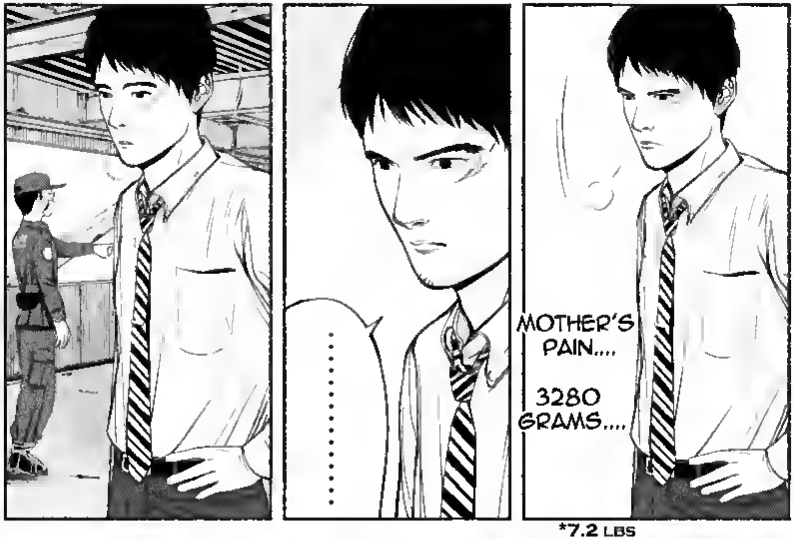
YOU SAID IT. I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING THAT...
WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.
THIS GUY'S A MONSTER .....
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HIS HEAD MUST BE AS FUCKED UP AS THIS GUY'S.
THE SEVERED BODY PARTS WERE PLACED IN A BUCKET ON THIS SCALE
"SENTENCED TO KNOWING YOUR MOTHER'S PAIN"...
AND THIS TIME IT LOOKS LIKE HE LEFT US SOME FOOTPRINTS, TOO.... HOW GENEROUS OF HIM.
JUST LIKE BEFORE, HE LEFT BEHIND THE WEAPON AND A NOTE...
AND BOTH THE METHOD OF KILLING AND THE WRITING ON THE NOTE DIFFER.
HOWEVER, THIS TIME THE TARGET WAS A MAN....


LIVES WITH HIS MOTHER, REPORTED MISSING LAST NIGHT. THE POLICE CONDUCTED THEIR SEARCH ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE LEFT HOME WILLINGLY.
OH?
YES... IT SEEMS OUR VICTIM WAS A TEXTBOOK HIKIKOMORI. SO FOR HIM TO SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR.....
IS THERE SOME MEANING BEHIND IT? THIS NUMBER HERE.
YES, SIR. THE VICTIM'S NAME IS TSUTSUMI YUUICHI, 28 YEARS OLD, UNEMPLOYED
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE VICTIM?

*SOMEONE WHO NEVER LEAVES THEIR HOUSE OR ROOM

INSIDE, WE FOUND TRACES OF FOOTPRINTS THAT LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FROM RUBBER BOOTS.
THE LIGHTS AND HIS COMPUTER WERE BOTH LEFT ON.
HE LEFT WITHOUT A SINGLE PAIR OF SHOES, AND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF LOCK PICKING IN THE ENTRANCEWAY.
PROBABLY MATCHING THE FOOTPRINTS WE HAVE HERE.....

IN THAT CASE, HIS TARGET WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN RANDOM.
HIS ONLY MOTIVE WAS MURDER .....
HE CHOSE SOME-ONE WHO WOULD ALWAYS BE AT HOME...
..... IN OTHER WORDS,
F
ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH OUR VICTIMS?
THAT IS CUR-RENTLY UNDER INVESTI-GATION.
VR MOTHER'S PAI
A BRUISE .....?


MOTHER'S PAIN....
3280 GRAMS....
*7.2 LBS

BIRTH WEIGHT...?
酢豚定食 850円
ニラレバ定食 800円
炒飯定食 750円
タンタン麺 650円
SHA--H
万福亭
万福亭
御食事処
THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKIN'.
(CHEW)
(CHEW)
*MANPUKU RESTURANT

THOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE JUST KNOWING THAT WILL GET US OUR KILLER...
CHEW
CHEW
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS ARE LIKE SOLVING A PUZZLE. ...AS YOU PIECE TOGETHER THE INFORMATION, EVENTUALLY AN OUTLINE WILL START TO EMERGE.
I SEE... SO HIS SENTENCE WAS TO "KNOW HIS MOTHER'S PAIN."
SO HE WAS KILLED BY CUTTING OFF ENOUGH FLESH TO MATCH HIS WEIGHT AS A BABY...
BASICALLY... THE VICTIM CONTINUED TO LIVE AS HE DID, DESPITE THE HARDSHIP IT BROUGHT ON THE MOTHER.
THE PERP MUST HAVE SEARCHED THROUGH EVERY LITTLE DETAIL OF THE GUY'S LIFE.. HE'S DONE HIS RESEARCH.
SZZLE...
BINGO.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE SOMEONE'S BIRTH WEIGHT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE, RIGHT?
I SEE ...
CLINK
HEY,
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED YOUR FOOD.
PERHAPS HE WAS OBSERVING HIS TARGETS' EVERY MOVE, OR MAYBE HE SNUCK INTO THEIR HOMES AND FISHED THROUGH THEIR STUFF....

YOU'VE GOTTA BE ABLE TO SCARF DOWN A HAMBURGER AFTER SEEING STUFF LIKE THAT
CLINK
SUCK
NO WAY...
JEEZ, EATING ENOUGH TO AT LEAST SUSTAIN YOURSELF IS PART OF YOUR JOB TOO, YOU KNOW
BURP
I'VE GOT NO APPETITE AT ALL....
SIGH...
CLACK
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO POUR IT FOR YOU?
..YES, OF COURSE.
.....
'SCUSE ME, COULD YOU HAND ME THE WATER?
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
THAT'S ENOUGH.
SPLISH
THANKS
GLUP
.....

SORRY, I COULDN'T REALLY GET TOO CLOSE...
CHINK...
SOME-THIN' ABOUT IT'S JUST BEEN BOTHERIN' ME.
HIS CHEEK ...?
BY THE WAY, NAKA-NO...
GULP
GULP
DID YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AT OUR VICTIM'S CHEEK?
THIS IS JUST ONE OF MY WILD THEO-RIES, BUT.... THIS PERP-- WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT HIM IS HOW WELL-PREPARED AND COOL-HEADED HE MUST BE...
SOMEONE SO CALM AND DELIBERATE IN THEIR ACTIONS WOULDN'T USUALLY MAKE CARELESS MOVES.
...?
WHAT IS IT?
.....YEAH.
IN OTHER WORDS... HE DOESN'T SEEM THE TYPE TO MAKE ANY SUPERFLUOUS MOVES. HE'S JUST THERE TO CARRY OUT HIS "SENTENCING."

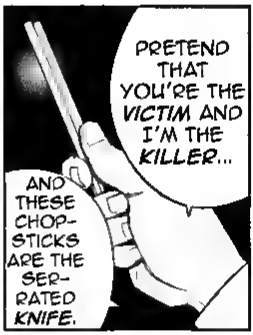
FURTHER-MORE, THAT WOUND ON HIS RIGHT CHEEK SEEMS TO JUST STOP, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE...
AND YET, WE HAVE A BRUISE ON OUR VICTIM'S LEFT CHEEK, AS IF HE'D BEEN HIT.
NO... I DON'T THINK SO. I'D GUESS HE CHOSE THAT ABANDONED BUILDING SPECIFICALLY SO THEY WOULDN'T BE HEARD.
COULD IT BE THAT THE VICTIM YELLED OUT OR BEGGED FOR MERCY?
AND SO HE HIT HIM TO SHUT HIM UP...?
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT...
THEN... MAYBE HE RESISTED MORE THAN EXPEC-TED?
HOW'S HE GONNA DO THAT WITH HIS ARMS AND LEGS TIED UP...
.....
HM?
...WAIT A MINUTE.....

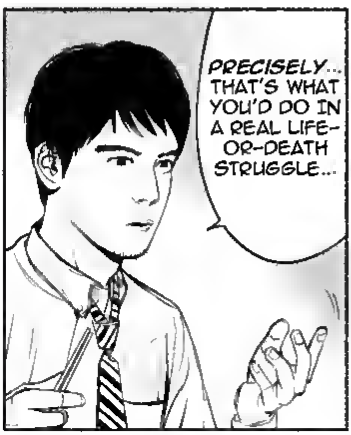
SIZZLE
H-HOLD ON, SIR, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

!!
SQUEEZE

HOW WOULD YOU *FIGHT BACK*, KNOWING YOUR ARMS AND LEGS TIED UP...?

THE KILLER CUTS INTO THE VICTIM'S *CHEEK*...
THE BLADE GOES BACK AND FORTH, PRODUCING INTENSE PAIN.


PRETEND THAT YOU'RE THE *VICTIM* AND I'M THE *KILLER*...
AND THESE CHOP-STICKS ARE THE SER-RATED *KNIFE*.


PRECISELY... THAT'S WHAT YOU'D DO IN A REAL LIFE-OR-DEATH STRUGGLE...

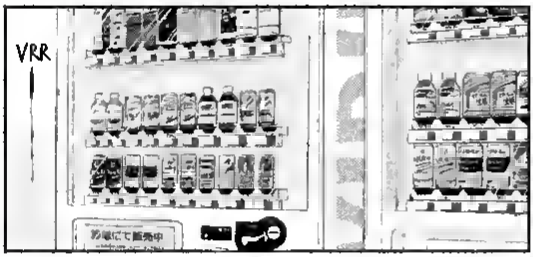
.....

I WOULD USE MY TEETH... AND *BITE* THAT FINGER...

BUT IF THAT WERE THE CASE...
THIS IS ALL JUST MY CONJECTURE.
.....WELL,
RUB RUB
...SO THEN, THE KILLER INSTINCTIVELY STRUCK THE VICTIM? ....
HE'D HAVE A PRETTY NASTY WOUND ON HIS LEFT THUMB...
YEAH...

CLUNK
ALRIGHT! HERE'S YOUR PORK RAMEN, SIR!
WOOSH
?
.....
HUH?

.....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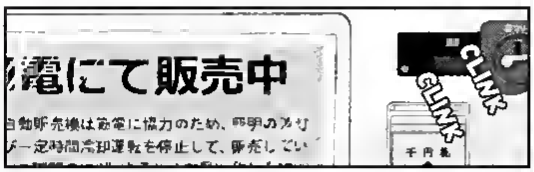
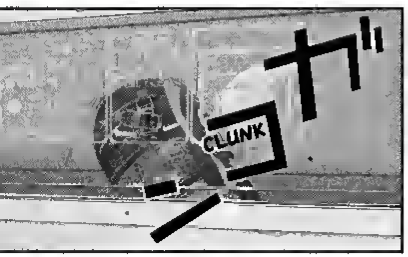
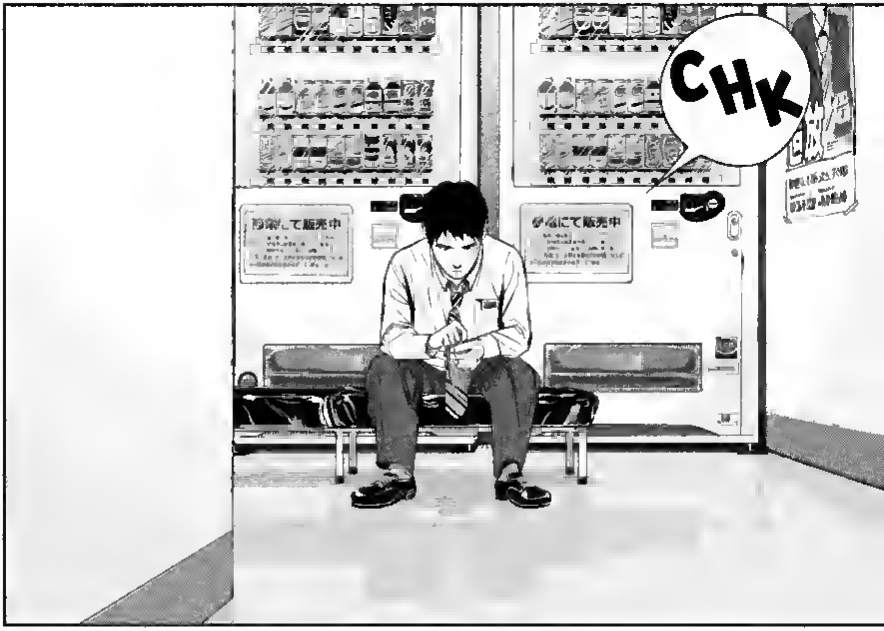
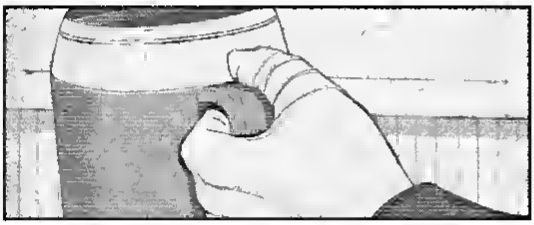

電にて販売中
CLINK
CLINK

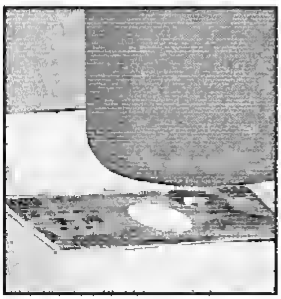
SHAA--H


CLUNK
ガ

BEEP
Chilled
¥120


CHK



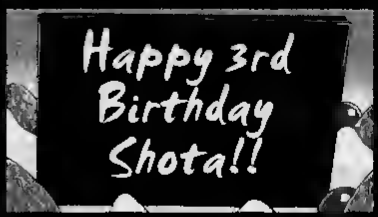


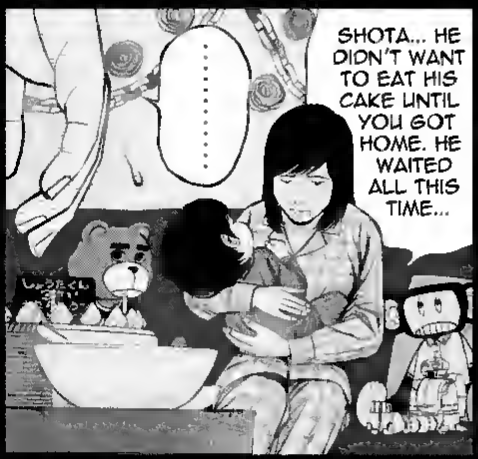
.....
GULP...

FWUMP
ROLL
COLA
.....
TAP
WAS IT JUST A COINCI-DENCE .....?
.....A COINCI-DENCE .....

Happy 3rd Birthday Shota!!

Tick
Tick
Tick


Happy 3rd Birthday Shota!!


SHOTA... HE DIDN'T WANT TO EAT HIS CAKE UNTIL YOU GOT HOME. HE WAITED ALL THIS TIME...

...OH.
...RIGHT, TODAY WAS...

I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT TO HIM...
Z
Z
Z

I WOUND UP... BUYING HIM AN EXTRA PRESENT.
TOY SHOP

I DON'T... WANT TO HEAR IT ANYMORE.
SOB
Z
Z
SORRY .....
I GOT SO CAUGHT UP AT WORK, I JUST... FORGOT .....
I DON'T MEAN TO...
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE EVER MADE IT TO A SINGLE ONE OF OUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES...
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS. "WORK" THIS OR "WORK" THAT...
DID YOU TURN UP ANY NEW LEADS, SAWAMURA?
TURN

!!
SNAP

WHEW

.....
HOW DID IT GO?

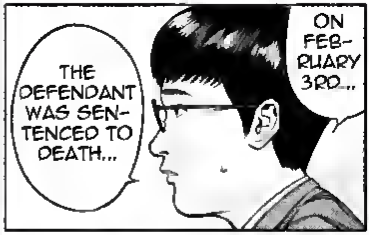
OH... HEY, SEKI...
SHIFT

BEEP
120
CLUNK
BUT THAT'S ALL ANYONE COULD TELL US.
WELL, ...JUST LIKE BEFORE, SOMEONE IN A RAINCOAT WAS SEEN IN THE VICINITY.
CLINK CLINK
BOTH MURDERS HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING RAINY WEATHER...
CLACK
PERHAPS HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT HE CAN HIDE HIS APPEARANCE IN A RAINCOAT...
CLINK
THIS GUY'S EVEN MORE TRICKY THAN WE THOUGHT...

THERE YOU ARE, SEKIHATA, SIR!
.....AND YOU TOO, SARGEANT.
6F/B
OH!
THEY'VE FOUND IT!
THE COMMON LINK BETWEEN THE VICTIMS!
OHH .....
WHAT WAS THAT PAUSE ABOUT?
NOTHING... HAHAHA
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT!?
THEY DID!?

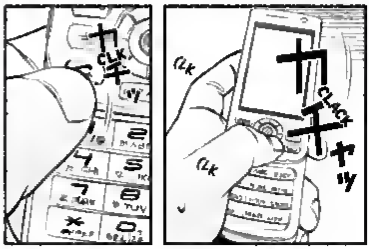
GET TO THE POINT.
TSUTSUMI YUUICHI, THE UNEMPLOYED HIKIKOMORI, ACTUALLY MADE A LITTLE BIT OF INCOME THIS YEAR... 9,000 YEN A DAY FOR 7 DAYS. WE ALSO FOUND THAT HE HAD PAID ROUND TRIP PORTATION T FIRST W HT NOTHING , BUT NOW
HEY!
YES... I WAS HONESTLY QUITE SURPRISED!
ON FEBUARY 3RD OF THIS YEAR, THE DEATH PENALTY WAS GIVEN TO THE DEFENDANT IN THE "GIRL IN THE RESIN" MURDER TRIAL. AND THESE TWO...
WERE BOTH ON THAT JURY..!
YES, SIR! VICTIMS UEHARA AKEMI AND TSUTSUMI YUUICHI...
...I SAID THE COMMON LINK BETWEEN THE VICTIMS IS THAT JURY--
GRAB
!
!!
NO! BEFORE THAT!!
HEY, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
.....
!!
WHAT ....?

MY WIFE WAS...
.....
ONE OF THOSE JURORS.


ON FEBRUARY 3RD...
THE DEFENDANT WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH...

BY THE JURY ON THE "GIRL IN THE RESIN" MURDER TRIAL...

WHAT IS IT, SAWAMURA?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